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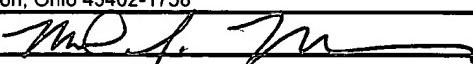
TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/980,921	
	Filing Date	10/26/01	
	First Named Inventor	Ami Verhalen	
	Art Unit	3724	
	Examiner Name	Stephen Choi	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	2	Attorney Docket Number	006593-1966

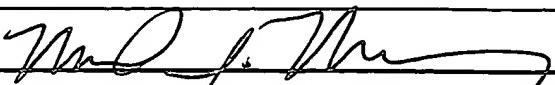
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Thompson Hine LLP 2000 Courthouse Plaza N.E., 10 West Second Street Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
Signature	
Date	October 8, 2003

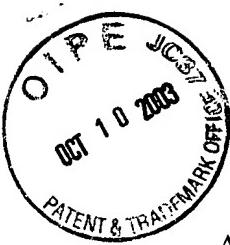
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant : Verhalen et al.
Serial No. : 09/980,921
Filed : October 26, 2001
Title : SLICING MACHINE, METHOD OF USE AND COMPONENTS THEREOF
Docket : 006593-1966
Examiner : Choi, Stephen
Art Unit : 3724

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION

In response to the Office action mailed September 8, 2003, applicant hereby elects Group II, claims 5-8, without traverse.

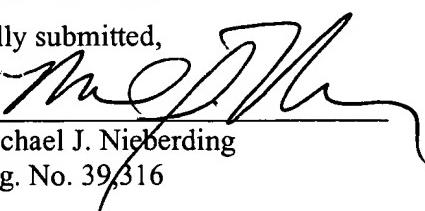
The species restriction made in the action is considered inappropriate in the context of the election of Group II, which is directed to a slicing machine with a blade sharpening assembly. The present application illustrates two sharpening assemblies per Figs. 34-35 and per Figs. 45-49. At least claim 5 is readable on both configurations per the numbering contained in the claims. To the extent deemed necessary by the examiner, and without prejudice, applicants elect Species E, Fig. 44, all of elected claims 5-8 being readable thereon.

Applicants also note that claims 1-4, 13 and 18 were previously canceled by Preliminary Amendment filed with the application.

If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this paper or application, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Michael J. Nieberding
Reg. No. 39,316

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